

Annual Report

ON THE

*Sanitary and Housing
Conditions*

OF THE

Kirkham Urban District

FOR THE YEAR 1943.



L. FAY, M.D., D.P.H.,
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

PRESTON :

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Medical Officer of Health
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FOR THE YEAR 1943.

*To the Chairman and Members of the Kirkham
Urban District Council.*

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit to you my third Annual Report for the year ending December 31st, 1943

In accordance with the Ministry of Health's request, this report is of an interim nature, and in the main is confined to vital statistics.

I wish to express my appreciation for the courtesy and co-operation which I have invariably received from the Council and my fellow officials.

AREA.—The Area of the Kirkham Urban District is 940 statute acres.

POPULATION.—The population of the Kirkham Urban District for the year 1943, for the purposes of statistics, is 4,126. The population (Census 1921) was 3,892. The 1931 Census gave the population as 4,031.

The number of inhabited houses (Census 1931) was 1,064, and 1,215 at the end of 1943, according to the rate books.

THE RATEABLE VALUE of the District was £29,326, and the sum represented by a penny rate £118.

BIRTHS AND BIRTH-RATE.—The Live Births reported by the local Registrar as occurring in the Urban District of Kirkham during the year ended 31st December, 1943, numbered 92 (males 45, females 47). Birth-rate, 22.2 per 1,000.

DEATHS AND DEATH-RATE.—The number of deaths registered locally as belonging to the Kirkham Urban District during the year 1943 was 55 (males 26, females 29). Death-rate 13.3 per 1,000.

CAUSES OF DEATH.

PHTHISIS.—No deaths were registered as due to Tuberculosis.

INFANTILE MORTALITY.—The deaths of children under 1 year of age numbered 6 (males 4, females 2). Infantile Death-rate 65.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

There are no hospitals in the district, but advantage is taken of those in the neighbourhood, viz.:—

- (1) The Fylde Hospital at Moss Side, near Lytham, for Infectious Diseases.
- (2) Preston, Fylde and Garstang Hospital at Elswick for Smallpox.
- (3) Elswick Sanatorium for cases of Tuberculosis.
- (4) Preston Royal Infirmary for serious accidents and surgical operations.

The Fylde Union Institution at Wesham, adjoining Kirkham, has also an Infirmary, and receives necessitous cases, and those of Maternity when required. The accommodation is very good, and is not only used by this district, but also by the Fylde Rural District, Blackpool, Fleetwood, Poulton and Lytham St. Annes.

With regard to hospital administration, Committees are formed consisting of representatives from the various Councils of the area.

POOR LAW INSTITUTIONS.—As mentioned above, use is made of the Fylde Union Institution at Derby Road, Wesham.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES.—The Ambulance facilities for the district are very good.

(a) For Infectious Cases : The Moss Side Isolation Hospital has a Motor Ambulance for conveyance of patients to the Hospital. The Elswick Sanatorium has also a Motor Ambulance for tuberculous patients.

(b) For Non-Infectious and Accident Cases : Private Ambulances may be hired from Preston or Blackpool or locally, for those who can afford to pay the cost. The provision of such service for necessitous cases is undertaken by the Council by arrangement with a private motor ambulance hirer.

The cost of hospital treatment for infectious diseases to the local authority was £509 8s. 9d. for the year ended 31st March, 1944.

This approximates to a cost of £3 per patient per week.

CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES.—A Maternity and Child Welfare Centre is provided by the County Council, and is situated in Mellor Road. A weekly session is held each Thursday at 2-0 p.m.

TUBERCULOSIS DISPENSARY.—Use is made of the Dispensary at Elswick Sanatorium. This is under the care of the Medical Officer of that Institution.

SCHOOL CLINIC.—The Medical Inspection of School Children is carried out in all Schools by the School Medical Officer acting under the County Council, who, under the new scheme, is also the Medical Officer of Health for the Urban District.

VENEREAL DISEASES CLINIC.—Treatment is given at the Preston Royal Infirmary, under a scheme of the County Council.

PROFESSIONAL NURSING IN THE HOME.

For nursing in the home there is the Kirkham and Wesham District Nursing Association. This is maintained by subscriptions from members of the Association, and employs one Nurse, who attends cases of illness, with the exception of infectious cases, in their homes in the districts of Kirkham and Wesham. No co-ordination exists with the local authority, and no financial obligations fall upon the authority. Midwifery cases are not undertaken by the Association.

LABORATORY WORK

The examination of specimens for the detection of the Diphtheria organisms has been carried out at the Preston Royal Infirmary Laboratory. Four examinations were carried out during 1943.

Specimens of sputum are sent to Elswick Sanatorium for the detection of the Tubercle Bacillus.

THE ADMINISTRATION OF LOCAL ACTS OR GENERAL ADOPTIVE ACTS.

There have been no new local Acts or adoption of any Acts during the year.

SCHOOLS.

The medical inspection of school children under the Education Act is carried out in all Schools in the district by the School Medical Officer, acting under the County Council.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

The following table shows the number of cases of Infectious Diseases notified, number of deaths from these diseases, number of cases removed to hospital, and deaths in hospital during the year 1943.

21 cases of Scarlet Fever, all sporadic, occurred during 1943. 12 Diphtheria notifications were received, of whom 11 proved to be true cases. Five of the cases had been immunised, and presumably had the disease in a milder form than would have otherwise been the case.

IMMUNISATION AGAINST DIPHTHERIA.

The campaign against Diphtheria was continued during 1943. The scheme was organised by the Public Health Department, and having received the approval of the Lancashire County Council was eligible for a grant of 50 per cent. from the County Council. Advantage was taken of the free provision by the Ministry of Health of immunising material; alum precipitated toxoid was used in doses of .2 to .5 c.c. at intervals of one month.

The injections were given by the Medical Officer of Health during 1943.

1.—PRE-SCHOOL AGE.

No. of children immunised, 1943	Total immunised	Available population
69	135	Age 1—4 Nil 240 ... 56%

2.—SCHOOL CHILDREN.

No. of children immunised, 1943	Total immunised	Available population
51	539	645 ... 83%

Facilities are available for any child to be immunised at the Clinic on the third Thursday of each month between 10—12 and 2—4 p.m. without previous appointment.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (other than Tuberculosis) DURING THE
YEAR 1943.

DISEASES.	CASES NOTIFIED.														HOSPITAL		
	Total Cases at all Ages. Under 1 year.	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-65	65 and over.	Total Deaths.	Total Cases removed to Hospital.	Deaths in Hospital of Persons belonging to District.		
Smallpox .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever	21	...	2	3	3	6	5	2	...	...	...	...	...	21	...
Diphtheria & Membranous Croup	12	...	1	2	3	2	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	12	...
Enteric Fever (inc. Paratyphoid)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Acute Primary Pneumonia .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Acute Influenzal Pneumonia	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Puerperal Fever .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Puerperal Pyrexia .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cerebro-Spinal Fever .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Acute Poliomyelitis .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Acute Polio-encephalitis .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Encephalitis Lethargica .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Dysentery .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Ophthalmia Neonatorium .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Malaria contracted abroad .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
do. In this country .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Any other diseases notifiable in district, e.g.,—Chicken-pox .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Measles and German Measles ...	6	...	2	2	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Whooping Cough .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Any other disease .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals	40	...	3	7	6	7	10	5	2	...	...	...	...	33	...

TUBERCULOSIS.

Under the Public Health (Tuberculosis) Regulations 3 cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis and 1 case of Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis were notified during the year.

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1943.

AGE PERIODS.		NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
		M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Years.									
0—1	.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1—5	.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
5—10	.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
10—15	.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
15—20	.....	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
20—25	.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
25—35	.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
35—45	.....	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
45—55	.....	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
55—65	.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
65 and upwards	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals	...	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	0

The notification of Tuberculosis in the district as a rule is good, and there has been no need to take action in cases of wilful neglect or refusal to notify.

PUBLIC HEALTH (Prevention of Tuberculosis) REGULATIONS, 1925.

There has been no action taken under these regulations relating to tuberculous employees in the milk trade.

The district is under the care of the Medical Officer of the Elswick Sanatorium. Every week notifications of tuberculosis (if any) are sent to the County Medical Officer. The Tuberculosis Officer visits each patient with the Medical Attendant, and, where necessary, domiciliary or sanatorium treatment is given. On the occasion of death or removal to a sanatorium the dwellings are always disinfected.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

L. FAY, M.D., D.P.H.



Kirkham Urban Sanitary Authority

*To the Chairman and Members of the Kirkham
Urban District Council.*

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour of presenting my Thirty-second Annual Report on the work done in the Sanitary Department during 1943.

During the year 35 notices and letters have been served with regard to the abatement of nuisances and the remedying of insanitary defects.

SANITARY CONDITIONS OF THE DISTRICT.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.—The Scavenging of the whole District is carried out weekly.

The work is done by the Council's men and motor under the supervision of the Sanitary Inspector.

Average weekly number of loads of refuse dealt with at the Destructor : 23.

				Conversions during 1943		During 5 years 1928-42	
No. of Privy closets :—							
To fresh-water closets				—	19
To pail closets				—	—
No. of Pail closets :—							
To fresh-water closets				—	10
To waste-water closets				—	—

	Conversions during 1943	During 5 years 1928-42
No. of Waste-water closets:—		
To fresh-water closets	—	—

No. of houses at which movable ashbins have been substituted for fixed receptacles	3	35
---	---	----

Is there any definite policy at the present time for abolishing privy middens and pail closets? No.

Does the Council contribute towards the cost of conversion? No.

What kind of closet accommodation is being provided for new property? All fresh-water closets.

The following are the number of closets and ash-pits:—

Fresh-water closets	1,223
Waste-water closets	21
Privy closets	19
Privy ashpits	14
Dry ashpits	5
Ashbins in towns	990

RIVERS AND STREAMS.—No rivers and streams pass through the district.

SEWERS AND SEWERAGE SYSTEM.—The sewerage, in conjunction with that from Wesham, runs to tanks at Newton and then into the River Ribble.

No. of houses connected direct to sewer	1,176
„ „ „ to septic tanks	34
Estimated No. of houses on the water-carriage system	1,181

WATER SUPPLY is good and ample, and is under the control of the Fylde Water Board.

The water mains have been flushed by the Fylde Water Board's workmen at different times.

All the houses in the town are supplied with Fylde water, except two bungalows, which are supplied from a well.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES AND DISINFECTIONS.

No. of disinfections after death or removal of tuber-	
culosis cases	4
„ „ houses disinfected	30
„ „ Schools disinfected	3
„ „ Library and other School books disinfected	81

All cases are visited upon receipt of notification. After the death or removal of patients for either hospital or sanatorium treatment the rooms are thoroughly disinfected with formalin.

SCHOOLS.

The Schools are inspected regularly and found satisfactory. All the Schools are supplied with Fylde water, and have fresh-water closets connected direct to the sewer.

COMMON LODGING-HOUSES.

No. on Register : 1. What is its condition ? Fairly satisfactory.

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

No. of premises : None. Type of offensive trade : None.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

(1) INSPECTIONS FOR PURPOSES OF PROVISIONS AS TO HEALTH INCLUDING INSPECTIONS MADE BY SANITARY INSPECTOR.

Premises.	Number of		
	Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers prosecuted
Factories with Mechanical power	42	...	...
Factories without Mechanical power	37	1	...
Other premises under the Act (including Building and Engineering construction, but not including outworkers' premises)...	...	...	...
Total	79	1	0

DEFECTS FOUND.

Particulars.	Number of Defects.			Number of Defects in respect of which Prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	1	1	...	...
Overcrowding (S.2) .....	...	...	...	...
Unreasonable temperature (S.3) ...	...	...	...	...
Inadequate ventilation (S.4) .....	...	...	...	...
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) .	...	...	...	...
Sanitary conveniences (S.7) :—				
Insufficient .....	...	...	...	...
Unsuitable or defective	1	1	...	...
Not separate for sexes .....	...	...	...	...
Other Offences .....	...	...	...	...
Total	2	2	...	...

Number of Factory and Works chimneys in the District	7
Number of black smoke observations	9
Time limit allowed—Minutes per hour	6

LIVESTOCK (RESTRICTION ON SLAUGHTERING) (No. 2) ORDER, 1940.

MINISTRY OF FOOD ORDER WHICH CAME INTO OPERATION
JANUARY 15TH, 1940.

None of the three Registered Slaughter-houses has been used during the year.

All animals destined for food have been killed outside the district and the meat brought in and allocated to our butchers.

FOOD CONDEMNED.

27-lbs. Cod Fish.	2 1-lb. tins Soup.
140-lbs. Hake Fish.	5 2½-lb. tins Plums.
47-lbs. Butter.	1 2-lb. tin Prunes.
2½-cwts. Onions.	1 2-lb. tin Peaches.
6-lb. tin Luncheon Meat.	4 2-lb. tins Jam.
1 tin Milk.	1 1-lb. tin Peas.
2 1-lb. tins Fish Roll.	

SHELLFISH (MOLLUSCANS).

Particulars of any shellfish beds or layings which may be in the district. None in District.

MILK SUPPLY.—Action taken with regard to milk, including inspection of farms and dairies, the Administration of the Milk and Dairies Order, 1926, and the Milk (Special Designations) Orders, 1936 and 1938.

Under the Milk and Dairies Act, 1936, there are 9 Registered producers and retailers of milk, and 3 Registered retailers only. 98 inspections have been made to these premises, which have been kept in a clean, sanitary condition.

All the farms are supplied with Fylde water.

No. of Registered Cheese Factories	...	...	...	...	...	1
„ „ Registered Cowkeepers, including Dairy Farms	...	...	...	...	...	9
„ „ Milk Purveyors (other than Cowkeepers)	...	...	...	...	...	3
„ „ Licences issued to Dealers in respect of Tuberculin	...	...	...	...	...
Tested	...	...	...	...	...	2

Approximate number of Dairy Cows in district 127

Number of Licences issued in respect of Pasteurised Milk—

Pasteurising Plants 1

Retail Distributors None

Part of the milk supply is brought in by farmers from the surrounding districts.

SHOPS AND OFFICES.

Particulars of any action taken under provisions of—

(a) Shops Act, 1934 1

(b) Public Health Act, 1936 None.

CAMPING SITES.—None in District.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT. SANITARY INSPECTION.

No. of Premises visited 328

„ „ Defects or Nuisances 43

„ „ Preliminary Notices served by Inspector 35

„ „ Statutory Notices served by Order of Council ... —

„ „ Nuisances remedied 43

„ „ Drains opened out and defects rectified 12

„ „ Defective roofs and gutters repaired 6

„ „ Houses repaired inside 14

„ „ Defective w.c. basins and cisterns 11

RAG FLOCKS ACTS, 1911 and 1928.

Number of premises in district in which rag flock is manufactured, used or sold :—

Number of inspections.

Number of samples taken.

Results :

None in District.

HOUSING.

Number of new houses erected during the year None
 Number of houses on Rate Books 1,215

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS:—

Give particulars of any action taken during 1942 5
 Methods employed for the eradication of bed bugs : Fumigation
 and spraying with Vermicines.

HOUSING.

Number of new houses erected during the year :—

(a) Total, including numbers given separately under (b)... None

I. By the Local Authority None

II. By other bodies or persons None

(b) With State assistance under the Housing Acts:—

I By the Local Authority included under
 (a) I. above None

II. By other bodies or persons included under
 (a) above None

HOUSING CONDITIONS.

1.—GENERAL OBSERVATIONS AS TO HOUSING CONDITIONS.

The general housing conditions are fair, mostly working-class houses of both parlour and non-parlour type. During the last few years the state of disrepair has increased considerably.

Approximate number of back-to-back houses in the district None

Comment on the extent to which housing matters have been affected by the changed conditions during the year under review :—

No great change.

2.—HOUSING SCHEMES. Particulars of any housing schemes in hand or completed during 1943 None

3.—OVERCROWDING. Comment briefly on the position with regard to overcrowding conditions in the area :—

Considerable temporary overcrowding due to present conditions.

4.—CLEARANCE AND IMPROVEMENT AREAS. Give particulars of any action taken during 1943 None

Notable sanitary improvements during 1943. None

I am, yours obediently,

JAMES R. HOLMES,

M.I.H., A.R.S.I., N.D.A.,

SANITARY INSPECTOR.

